

November 7, 2011

Postal Rate Commission
ATTN: Dean J. Granholm, VP Delivery and Post Office Operations
901 New York Ave. NW
Suite 200
Washington DC 20268-0001

A 2012-74
RECEIVED

2011 NOV 16 P 2:39

Re: 56680

Dear Sirs:

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

I am exercising my right to appeal to the Postal Rate Commission to reverse the closure of the Spring Lake Post Office 56680 for the following reasons:

- 1) Inaccurate information was distributed in the Notice of Closure
- 2) Closing this post office in a rural, poor area is relatively more severe than closing an urban post office, and this should be assigned a value in the decision
- 3) This is the third post office to close in our immediate area, leaving only post offices 17 and 20 miles away; the closer of which is already in the process of closing.
- 4) The USPS website offers the Village Post Office as a cost saving alternative. This is exactly what Spring Lake is.

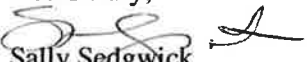
Inaccurate information: The Notice offered as a cost saving the salary and benefits of the postmistress. The postmistress is a CIO and does not receive benefits. The Notice also described how a postal delivery person could deviate from his route by 1/2 mile to deliver packages to a door. Our location is a farm and as a result has an unlocked gate. The postal delivery person is not permitted to open gates. When a package is to be delivered, a notice is left and we would need to travel 20 miles one way to retrieve the package.

Closing a post office in a poor, rural area: A rural area has different and more severe handicaps when a post office is closed. There is no public transportation and the distance between post offices is much greater. In this area, gasoline is also more expensive than town stations. This hardship differential should be quantified when decisions are made to close post offices, especially when receiving taxpayer monies as part of providing universal service.

Cluster closures: If there are 5.79 million square miles in the United States, why are so many post offices closed in any small 20 mile square area? In our case over the years the post office 4 miles away was closed (56688). Then the post office 10 miles away (56659). Now the post office 8 miles away will close, leaving the office 17 miles away about to close and the only remaining options 20 miles away. To access this will cost 50 minutes in time, about \$7 in gas and the additional hazards of poor winter travel and extreme daytime winter temperatures of -20 degrees F.

Village Post Offices: This is a progressive idea to streamline postal service and save money as showcased on the USPS website. Spring Lake Post Office is exactly that; a postal window with post office boxes within a general store. If this is not regarded as a successful model in Spring Lake, then discard the concept. Otherwise please consider keeping this post office open.

Yours truly,


Sally Sedgwick
P.O. Box 43
Spring Lake, MN 56680

Received

NOV 15 2011

cc: Rep. Chip Cravaack

Office of PAGR